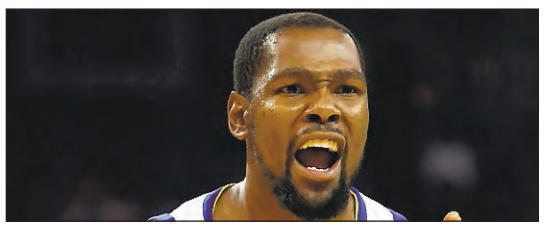
Business: $500,000 homes nearly extinct. C8

Sports: Warriors' Durant says he's ready to go — 'My leg's amazing.' C1



Inside: Louis C.K. admits he harassed women, 'brought pain.' A2

Local: Group connects students, veterans. B1

The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111 Volume 167, issue 145 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017 24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » $1.50

VETERANS DAY

WHY THOSE WHO SERVED GET IT

LAURA A. ODA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vietnam veteran Raymond La Rochelle, who flew 365 missions as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War, says the Veterans Day holiday gives our nation the chance to honor all who served, whether it was in combat or during a time of peace.

A day of honor: Veterans cut through the political noise to find holiday's essence

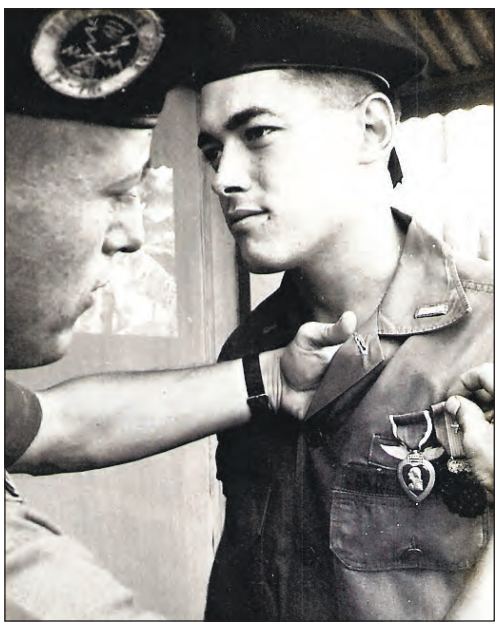
Veterans Day comes to us this year on the wings of a hot wind. The national discourse lacks civility. Peaceful protests turn incendiary. There is the presumption of many to speak on behalf of those we should be honoring. Shall we review?

Gary Peterson
Columnist

Taking a knee during the national anthem, popularized by dozens of NFL players, has driven a wedge in society. Such disparate souls as President Donald Trump and former baseball broadcaster Vin Scully have decried the gesture as an insult to veterans.

An unseemly feud erupted over the president's condolence call to a Gold Star widow in Oc-

PETERSON » PAGE 6



COURTESY OF RAYMOND LA ROCHELLE

Raymond La Rochelle, USNR, was awarded the Purple Heart and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star in 1968.

"It's honoring all who serve. Not everyone served in combat. But everyone who served in the Armed Services has served a vital mission in their own right."

— Raymond La Rochelle, Navy pilot and Vietnam veteran

More inside: Google shows how corporate America can use veterans' skills as a resource. BUSINESS, PAGE C8

ANALYSIS

Winners, losers in GOP tax proposal

Breaks go to big corporations, many small businesses, those with hefty medical bills

By Heather Long
Washington Post

Senate Republicans unveiled their big tax proposal Thursday, with Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah hailing it as a way to "give hard working taxpayers across the country growing paychecks" and create a "vibrant" economy.

Tax cuts are the centerpiece of President Donald Trump's economic plan that Republican lawmakers are aiming to get to him by Christmas. The Senate had the benefit of going after the House, so senators saw what generated the most outcry in the first go around.

Here's a rundown of the winners and losers. It's likely that most Americans would pay less in taxes under the plan, but it depends on a person's specific circumstances. Under the House bill, 31 percent of middle-class households would pay higher taxes by 2027, the Tax Policy Center found. Studies of the Senate plan will come out soon.

More inside: Major differences between House and Senate tax plans cause headaches for GOP leaders. PAGE A4

Winners

▪ Big corporations: America's mega companies get a big tax cut: From 35 percent down to 20 percent. Yes, the lower rate doesn't kick in until 2019, a one-year delay from what Trump prom-

TAX PLAN » PAGE 6

'GET THEIR FOOT IN THE DOOR'

Program to help first-time buyers

Local bank to help middle-income earners with soaring down payments

By Richard Scheinin
rscheinin@bayareanewsgroup.com

With housing prices continuing to skyrocket, many traditional buyers of starter homes have been frozen out of the Silicon Valley market.

Trying to bring a bit of relief to the situation, Housing Trust Silicon Valley is launching a program designed to help moderate and middle-income earners make down payments on houses. Bankrolled with $2 million of the Housing Trust's own unrestricted funds, it is called the Homebuyer Empowerment Loan Program,

HOUSING » PAGE 6

KARL MONDON — STAFF ARCHIVES

Signs fill a field off of Oakland Road in North San Jose. A new program could help middle-income homebuyers.

TIMELINE QUESTIONED

De León role in Capitol firings, scandal disputed

'Retaliation' feared after leader's roommate accused of sex harassment

By Katy Murphy and Casey Tolan
Staff writers

SACRAMENTO » The controversy surrounding sexual harassment in the state Capitol deepened on Friday and threatened to ensnare the Legislature's leading Democrat, Kevin de León, as questions swirled over when the Senate leader became aware of complaints against his weekday roommate.

de León

The plot thickened after a lawyer for a fired Senate staffer told Capital Public Radio that her client and two other employees were handed termination letters in the same meeting in which they detailed inappropriate behavior by

HARASSMENT » PAGE 2

NEWS ON YOUR PHONE
Download the Mercury News mobile app for iPhone or Android.

INDEX

Business C8
Classified CA8
Comics/TV B12
Letters A7
Lottery A2
Movies B11
Obituaries B9
Puzzles B4, C7

WEATHER
H: 65-67 **L:** 47-50
Full report on B14

digitalfirst MEDIA
Subscribe: MercuryNews.com

© Mercury News 2017

Flats and townhomes on the Bay.
Now Open • Pt. Richmond
WaterlinebySheaHomes.com

Sales: Shea Homes Marketing Company (CA BRE #01378646) Construction: Shea Homes Limited Partnership (CA CSLB #855368). Views not guaranteed and may change over time.